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Univ. of Toronto
1890-1906.

TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOUR OF

W. J. ASHLEY, M.A.

FELLOW OF LINCOLN COLLEGE, OXFORD;

LECTURER AT LINCOLN AND CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGES.

A CANDIDATE

FOR THE

PROFESSORSHIP OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

IN THE

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO.

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TO THE HONOURABLE, THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, ONTARIO, CANADA.

Lincoln College, Oxford,
March 12, 1888.

SIR,

I beg to offer myself as a Candidate for the Professorship of Political Science in the University of Toronto.

I am in my twenty-ninth year. Entering Balliol College, Oxford, in 1878, with a Scholarship in History and Law, I took a First Class in the Honour School of Modern History in 1881, and in 1882 received the Lothian (University) Prize for an Essay on *James and Philip van Artevelde*, which, upon the recommendation of Professor Stubbs, Messrs. Macmillan published in the following year. After three years' further residence at Oxford, occupied in the study and private teaching of History and Economics, I was elected in February, 1885, to a Tutorial Fellowship at Lincoln College; to which, a few months later, was added a Lecturership in History, with full tutorial work, at Corpus Christi College.

Thus I have had seven years' experience in teaching, during the last three as a college tutor and lecturer. I have taught all the subjects required for the Honour School of Modern History, including Political Science and Political Economy; but I have lectured chiefly on Economics, in one course stating and criticising modern theories, in another tracing the development of Economic History and Theory in their relation to one another; and I have had audiences consisting during some terms of as many as eighty or a hundred students. Since 1886 I have been Secretary to the Oxford Economic Society, composed of most of the senior resident members of the University interested in Economic questions. Last year I was appointed Examiner to the University in the Pass School of Political Economy, and the appointment has been renewed for this and the following year.

My own studies have lain chiefly in the direction of Economics and Constitutional History. In 1884 I took a considerable share in the preparation for publication of the late Arnold Toynbee's *Lectures on the Industrial Revolution of the Eighteenth Century in England*, of which I have subsequently prefaced a second edition. In 1886 I contributed a chapter on *Feudalism* to "Constitutional Essays," edited by Messrs. Wakeman and Hassall: last year I wrote a paper on the *Early History of the Woollen Industry*, since published by the American Economic Association: and within a few weeks will appear the first volume of an *Introduction to English Economic History and Theory*, based on my lectures of the last three years. Besides these, I edited the first volume, entitled *Edward III. and his Wars*, in a series of volumes of extracts from original authorities, now in course of publication; and I have written for Mr. Stedman's "Oxford: its Life and Schools" (1887), a paper on *The Honour School of Modern History*, since reprinted in the "Johns Hopkins University Studies in Historical and Political Science," Dec. 1887, p. 44, seq.

In Oxford I have had the advantage of studying under the present Bishop of Chester, Dr. Stubbs, and the present Regius Professor, Mr. Freeman. During the vacations I have repeatedly visited Germany, and I have made myself intimately acquainted with the University system of that country: at Göttingen I attended the lectures of the late Reinhold Pauli. I may venture to add that I have watched with the utmost sympathy the recent experiments in the teaching of Political Science in France, Germany, and the United States. Should I receive the honour of appointment to the chair at Toronto, I would do my best to promote studies which are of such vital importance to modern society.

I have the honour to be
Yours faithfully,
W. J. ASHLEY.

I.

From the Rt. Rev. WILLIAM STUBBS, D.D., LL.D., *Bishop of Chester; sometime Regius Professor of Modern History in the University of Oxford.*

The Palace, Chester, March 23, 1888.

HAVING been informed that Mr. W. J. ASHLEY is a candidate for the office of Professor of Political Science in the University of Toronto, I have much pleasure in offering a testimonial in his favour.

My acquaintance with Mr. ASHLEY began soon after his matriculation at Oxford. I examined him when he obtained his scholarship at Balliol; he was afterwards my pupil in professorial lectures; the Lothian prize was adjudged to him on my recommendation in 1882; and on several other occasions, and in various ways, I had opportunities of judging of his work, both before and after he had gained the highest distinction in historical studies, in 1881.

Accordingly I was able to trace very accurately the growth of his mind, and to estimate his power and his grasp of his subjects, as well as to understand the line which his studies were taking.

I feel myself, therefore, fully warranted in saying that I believe Mr. ASHLEY to be so peculiarly well suited to the position he seeks, that I scarcely know of any man of his standing who could compete with him. His taste has always lain in the line of Political Science; his devotion to the subject has been continuous, and his reading upon it, as upon other historical matters, extensive, steady, and judicious. As a pupil I found him independent, original, and most industrious. His style was good, and improved as he went on; his interest in his work vivid and sympathetic; and his judgment cautious in exercise and well balanced in conclusions.

Since I left Oxford I have heard with much pleasure of his work as a teacher; and of the distinctions with which it has been recognised. But of this others will speak more authoritatively. I can only add that my long acquaintance has given me good reason to trust in Mr. ASHLEY'S thorough honesty as student and teacher, and to feel confident of his conduct and merited success.

W. CESTR.

II.

From E. A. FREEMAN, Esq., D.C.L., *Regius Professor of Modern History in the University of Oxford.*

Oxford, March 25, 1888.

I HAVE great pleasure in giving my witness to the qualifications of Mr. W. J. ASHLEY for the professorship of Political Science in the University of Toronto. I know him, both from his writings and as one who has attended my private lectures in original authorities, as a genuine historical student, and one who has taken history from its economic side. He has worked carefully at the history of commerce, and brought a sound and scholarly method to bear on it. And I know that his work in this way has been specially appreciated by competent judges in the United States.

EDWARD A. FREEMAN.

III.

From the Rev. B. JOWETT, M.A., D.D. (Leyden), *Master of Balliol College, and Regius Professor of Greek.*

Balliol College, March 25, 1888.

MR. W. J. ASHLEY, now a Fellow of Lincoln College, was formerly a Scholar of Balliol, and obtained a First Class in Modern History, and also a University Prize Essay.

He is a very able man, gifted with great powers of acquiring knowledge, and able to express himself well and clearly. He has lectured to unusually large classes at Oxford. He has also had considerable experience in the instruction of private pupils.

I think him extremely well suited for a Professorship in an American University, and I know of no one who is more likely to persevere and distinguish himself in his own branch of study.

B. JOWETT.

IV.

From M. EMILE DE LAVELEYE, *Professor of Political Economy in the University of Liège; Corresponding Member of the Institut, etc.*

Liège, 25 *Mars*, '88.

CHER MONSIEUR,

A mon avis, vous le savez, l'économie politique déductive qui a rendu de grands services, a dit son dernier mot. Pour aborder avec fruit l'étude des redoutables problèmes de l'avenir, l'organisation du travail et constitution de la propriété, il faut s'appuyer sur les faits, et sur l'expérience du passé, c'est à dire, sur la statistique et sur l'histoire.

Vous êtes entré dans cette voie, et vos travaux, notamment votre livre sous presse, dont vous voulez bien me communiquer des épreuves, me semblent un sûr garant que vous rendrez de réèls services à notre science.

Votre bien dévoué,

EMILE DE LAVELEYE.

V.

From the Rev. W. W. MERRY, D.D., *Rector of Lincoln College, and Public Orator.*

Lincoln College, Oxford, March, 1888.

MR. WILLIAM JAMES ASHLEY was elected a Fellow of this College in March, 1885, under a special provision of the Statutes sanctioning the election to a "Fellowship, without examination, of a person qualified for the office of Tutor or Lecturer." It should be added that this Fellowship is one of limited tenure, and is bound by certain restrictions as to celibacy.

The announcement of the intention of the College to elect a Tutor, competent to direct the teaching of Modern History and Political Economy, attracted a strong field of candidates. After a careful study of the Testimonials, and frequent consultation with Professors and others, whose names had been given as references, the Governing Body of the College elected Mr. W. J. ASHLEY as a gentleman full of enthusiasm for his subject, and endowed with the power of communicating his knowledge to others; an indefatigable student, and an independent thinker.

Mr. ASHLEY has abundantly justified his election. As a shrewd critic, a stimulating teacher, an attractive lecturer, and a clear writer, Mr. ASHLEY has secured a high reputation already; and the energy with which he seeks to apply his wide knowledge of Modern History to the elucidation and illustration of Economics, with special regard to the historic development of Society, promises to give vigorous life and permanent value to his writings and lectures.

In thus giving my cordial testimony to Mr. ASHLEY'S high qualifications for the Professorship of Political Science, for which he is a candidate, I feel that I am commending to the favourable consideration of the electors one of the foremost students in that School of Modern History which has been the most fruitful development in recent times of the studies of this University.

And I should wish to add emphatically my conviction that if Mr. ASHLEY be appointed to this Chair he will discharge its important duties with a thoroughness and conscientiousness that will be appreciated both by his colleagues and his pupils. W. W. MERRY.

VI.

From ALFRED MARSHALL, M.A., *Professor of Political Economy in the University of Cambridge, England; sometime Fellow of Balliol College, Oxford.*

Balliol Croft, Madingley Road, Cambridge,
March 26, 1888.

HEARING from Mr. ASHLEY, of Lincoln College, Oxford, that he is a candidate for the chair of Political Science in the University of Toronto, I have pleasure in saying that I believe him to be a very able and energetic man, with a great future before him. I regard his work in economic history as remarkably good, and as of the very highest promise.

ALFRED MARSHALL.

VII.

From the Rev. A. M. FAIRBAIRN, D.D., M.A. Oxon.; *Principal of Mansfield College, Oxford; Ex-Chairman of the Congregational Union of England and Wales.*

Mansfield College, Oxford, March 26, '88.

MY DEAR ASHLEY,

I have great pleasure in bearing cordial and emphatic testimony to your high qualities and promise as a student and teacher in Political Science. These seem to me to fit you in a peculiar degree for a Chair in such a subject in a young country, and it is to this point more than any other that I would now speak.

The study that has always most deeply interested you has been what may be termed in the widest sense, Politics in History, and in this department much of your most successful work as a teacher has been done. You have always loved to study political, economical, and industrial forces and phenomena in relation to history, to exhibit their inter-relations, their bearing on the development of society, and on the progress and well-being of a people. Your historical studies have not been studies of persons and events, but of the action and evolution of political principles, industrial agencies and conditions, legal idea and custom, in a word, of the varied forces and stages of social and constitutional change. Indeed, I do not know any man of your standing so well qualified to handle, for the benefit of a country still young, the many subjects that may be grouped under the names of comparative Politics and Economics, as illustrated in the history of older and living peoples.

I do not like the prospect of seeing you depart from Oxford, but I am certain that you would, in Toronto, be in a place you are so well qualified to fill, that I cannot forbear saying how high I conceive your claims to be. Within the student is the man, and of him it must suffice to say, his interest in his subject is even more deeply human than keenly scientific. He never forgets that the questions of Political and Economical Science are matters that touch the happiness of man, as well as the prosperity and stability of peoples; and to say this of him is to say that his teaching will never be arid or abstract and doctrinaire, but solid, historical, living.

A. M. FAIRBAIRN.

VIII.

From WILLIAM MARKBY, Esq., D.C.L., *Reader in Indian Law in the University of Oxford; Fellow and Tutor of Balliol, and Fellow of All Souls; late Judge in the Supreme Court, Calcutta.*

Headington Hill, Oxford,
March 27, 1888.

I HAVE known Mr. ASHLEY since he took his degree, and have seen with pleasure the continued advance which he has made. He produced from the first a very remarkable impression as a lecturer, and he has since fully justified the high expectations that were then formed of him. Of his special qualifications I leave others to speak, but I know him to be clear, vigorous, and original, and I believe him also to be entirely free from any prejudices which would prevent him setting a subject before his hearers in all its bearings. I have much confidence that Mr. ASHLEY will one day make a considerable reputation in the studies to which he has devoted himself.

WILLIAM MARKBY.

IX.

From FREDERICK YORK POWELL, Esq., M.A., *Senior Student, Tutor, and Lecturer of Christ Church, Oxford; sometime Deputy to the Regius Professor of History; Examiner in the School of Modern History to the University of Oxford; Joint Editor of the "Corpus Poeticum Boreale."*

Christ Church, Oxford,
March 21, 1888.

MR. W. J. ASHLEY, who is now a candidate for the Professorship of Political Science at the University of Toronto, I have known personally for some time.

He is an earnest and devoted student of Economic Science, and he has done much to promote it in Oxford, by calling special attention to certain historic and dynamic sides of this science which I do not think have hitherto been sufficiently attended to here. In addition to his regular work he has gathered a knot of pupils round him, who have been working with him seminar-fashion to their great advantage.

Mr. ASHLEY is not only a sound honest scholar, as his printed work shows, but he is a man pleasant to work with, and a man that sets himself a high standard in life and study.

FREDERICK YORK POWELL.

X.

From A. MILNER, Esq., M.A., *Fellow of New College, Oxford; Private Secretary to the Chancellor of the Exchequer; late Assistant Editor of the "Pall Mall Gazette."*

47 *Duke-street, St. James's, S.W.*

MY DEAR ASHLEY,

I am very glad to hear that you are applying for the Professorship in Political Science at the University of Toronto, and willingly add the small weight of my good word to the numerous more weighty testimonials which you can easily obtain.

It is some years now since we were engaged together in a small but difficult piece of economic work—the editing of Toynbee's very fragmentary notes for his unfinished book on "The Industrial Revolution." But I well remember the great assistance which your acumen, your grasp of economic principle, and your wide reading on economic subjects afforded us at that time.

I should have pronounced you then to be qualified for the post which you are now seeking. But as I know that since then you have devoted the best part of your time to the study of Economics, and that not only in the ordinary directions, but in branches of the subject of which English economists have on the whole been regrettably neglectful, I venture to think that you are now not only fully, but exceptionally, fitted to do justice to the work in which you are anxious to engage.

Believe me,

Yours very truly,

A. MILNER.

From Pupils.

XI.

From H. L. W. LAWSON, Esq., B.A.,
M.P. *St. Pancras* (*London*).

Royal Commission on Civil Establishments,
7 Whitehall Place, S.W.
March 23, 1888.

I READ for some months in 1884 with Mr. W. J. ASHLEY for the Final Honours School of Modern History at Oxford University. Whilst we touched most periods and most sides of the subject, my studies with him were mainly directed to English Constitutional History and the seventeenth century in general. I found in his teaching an inexhaustible mine of historical learning, which he was able to concentrate in brilliant elucidation of particular epochs and phases. His knowledge is not limited to any special side of history, although for the last three or four years he has devoted himself to laborious examination of the economic and industrial development of nations, of the results of which he is shortly going to give us a first instalment. Mr. ASHLEY belongs to and has the spirit of the new historical school of which Dr. Stubbs (Bishop of Chester), Professor Freeman, and Professor Gardiner are the most illustrious and widely-known examples. I was originally attracted to him by his high reputation at the University, and I consider that the First Class Honours which I obtained in 1884 were mainly due to the comprehensive and luminous insight he gave me into the facts and movements of those periods that I was taking up for the History School. I feel certain that the University of Toronto would find Mr. ASHLEY excellently qualified for the post, if the authorities be pleased to elect him to the Professorship which he aspires to fill. I heartily wish him success in his candidature, not less in the interest of the University than for his own sake.

H. L. W. LAWSON.

XII.

From JOHN TRACEY, Esq., B.A., *Tutor and Lecturer of Keble College, Oxford.*

Keble College,
March 24.

GENTLEMEN,

I am informed that Mr. W. J. ASHLEY, Fellow and Lecturer of Lincoln College, and Lecturer of Corpus Christi College, is a candidate for the Professorship of Political Science at Toronto. I had the advantage of attending Mr. ASHLEY'S lectures in the year 1885-6, and found them interesting, suggestive, and full of learning; and the interest which he gave me in the subject led to my becoming a member of a small Society—of which he was the founder and centre—for the discussion of economic subjects among the younger graduates of his University. He has shewn such enthusiasm for his subject, and has already done so much to promote the study of his subject, that one cannot but look forward with considerable confidence to real and valuable work from him in the future.

I have, Gentlemen, the honour to be
Faithfully yours,
JOHN TRACEY.

XIII.

From M. LEON VANDERKINDERE, *Rector of the University of Brussels, and Professor of History; late Member of the Belgian Chamber of Representatives; Author of "Le Siècle des Artevelde"* [written in 1883].

MESSIEURS,

Je considère le livre de Mr. ASHLEY, "James and Philip van Artevelde," comme un excellent travail historique. L'auteur a mis à contribution tous les documents essentiels, sources anciennes et œuvres modernes, et il a su en composer un ensemble vrai et harmonique. Il a compris que pour reconter la vie d'un personnage et pour retracer un épisode, quelque important qu'il soit dans les annales d'un peuple, il faut avant tout connaître le passé de ce peuple, et s'inspirer de l'état général de la civilisation au moment donné.

Je puis donc affirmer, en toute sincérité, que Mr. ASHLEY possède le sens historique, qu'il sait tirer parti des documents, et qu'il dispose les éléments de son travail en une œuvre vivante, animée, pleine d'intérêt.

Je suis persuadé que cette étude attirera l'attention du public lettré en Angleterre sur une époque de notre histoire de Flandre où les deux pays avaient de si intimes relations, et j'espère qu'elle engagera à rechercher si les archives anglaises ne contiennent plus quelques documents intéressants sur les rapports d'Edouard III. avec Jacques van Artevelde.

Je me félicite donc de pouvoir délivrer à Mr. ASHLEY la présente attestation.

L. VANDERKINDERE.

XIV.

H. C. ADAMS, Ph.D., *Professor of Political Economy in Cornell and Michigan Universities; Author of "Public Debts;"* writes in *Science*, January 20, 1888, in a review of *The Early History of the English Woollen Industry*.

. . . . Turning now to the monograph itself, we find it to be an eminently satisfactory sketch of the history of the English woollen industry from earliest times to the period of the great inventions. The peculiar interest in such a sketch lies in the fact that the history of the woollen industry fairly represents the development of all industries. Whether we consider the relation of artizans to early local government, or the internal organization of trades, or the social and political influence of changed methods of doing work, we find a true picture in the history of the woollen industry. . . . For us in this country the part which treats of the separation of the merchant class from the main body of workers is perhaps the most instructive. Americans pride themselves on being cosmopolitan, and it is true that their love of travel makes them familiar with the existing habits and customs of many peoples; but when it comes to history, their minds are essentially provincial. They are prone to regard the nineteenth century, out of which their minds have never travelled, as the natural and therefore the permanent order of society. Their conservatism is, on this account, unreasonably strong. It would be a good thing if every business-man could be brought to see that there once existed a successful industrial society, in which a separate class of traders was not known. They then might regard with less suspicion certain tendencies in modern times looking towards further industrial changes.

But professed students of history, as well as businessmen, will find in this monograph much instruction. It is a common error to say that machinery and steam-power are responsible for the creation of a clearly defined labour-

ing-class. Mr. ASHLEY shows that such an assumption is not correct. . . .

. . . In closing we can only say that American students are always grateful for reliable information on English industrial history. They feel that the society with which they deal is as much the result of English life during the middle ages as is English Society itself. But this they cannot study at first-hand, because of paucity of material, and on that account they read with eagerness all that English scholars may write upon the subject. Mr. ASHLEY, then, has the thanks of American students for his excellent monograph on the English woollen industry.

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